

Grain and oil supply to the region has decreased significantly due supply-chain disruptions and sanctions, causing rises in the prices of food and essential staples. The poverty rate in the 15 non-GCC countries is likely to reach 32 percent. An additional 4 million people will be pushed into poverty, to a record 126 million people in the region. Extreme poverty is likely to extend to an additional 2.8 million people in the region as a result.

At least 7 countries are experiencing conflict and an estimated 16 million people in the region are considered either refugees or IDPs, while close to 52 million are in need of humanitarian assistance. The Russia-Ukraine war is also jeopardizing delivery of aid, putting millions of refugees and displaced persons in the region at risk of hunger.

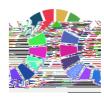
Africa

Russia/Ukraine conflict and the impacts of COVID 19. Food, fertilizer and energy prices, coupled with cost of financing have spiraled. Import bills for key products have doubled for many countries and interest rate hikes are driving up borrowing costs. Inflation is set to reach 14% in 2022. The ECA Economic Report on Africa (2021) noted that the Covid-19 pandemic led to an additional 55 million people being pushed into extreme poverty in 2020, loss of 22 million jobs in 2021 and cost countries up to US\$ 2.2 billion in fiscal stimulus in 2020. With the current conflict, over 124 million people face food insecurity, more than 20 African countries are at high risk of or in debt-distress and ECA estimates the war could

severe dimate vulnerabilities that will lead to an estimated loss of 5% of GDP by 2030.

Notwithstanding, and in spite of the multiple crises, endogenous growth opportunities exist





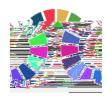
general debate, it is time to go beyond statements to concrete action and viable initiatives, with clear pathways to investments and to the policy changes required to set countries back on track to achieve the SDGs and restore trust on multilateral cooperation.

Against this backdrop, the Regional Commissions continue to support member States in addressing this complex configuration of threats with the development of national and regional solutions and innovative policy approaches, providing spaces for cross-sectoral and inclusive policy dialogue and peer learning, and delivering operational support and advisory services.

Building on the theme of the general debate of the Second Committee, Transforming political commitments into actions for sustainable recovery - Rebuilding a Sustainable Future for All , the Dialogue will focus on the theme of From risk to resilience: Accelerating actions to achieve a more sustainable and equitable future through regional cooperation and will allow debate on regional perspectives and solution pathways.

Key objectives of the Dialogue will be to:

- share latest data, insights and regional perspectives on the state of progress on the pandemic recovery and the combined impact of the food, energy and financing crises in the regions;
- 2. raise awareness on innovative thinking, policy responses and partnerships to build forward more resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies and to transform economies to reverse underinvestment in social protection systems and accelerate achievement of the SDCs:
- 3. reflect and exchange views on opportunities and implications of emerging trends solutions in financing for development, approaches to ensure financial liquidity to power the recovery and the required transformations to achieve the SDGs, including the reform of the international financial architecture and dimate finance:
- 4. showcase how the Regional Commissions, building on their convening and advocacy power, normative capacity and the



IV.

10:00 Opening remarks, Chair Second Committee, H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN.

Welcoming remarks, Moderator, Ms. Rosa Malango, Director, Regional Commissions New York Office.

10:05 Presentations by the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions:

- Executive Secretary ESCAP and USG Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana (via VTC)
- Executive Secretary ESCWA and USG Ms. Rola Dashti;
- Acting Executive Secretary ECA Mr. Antonio Pedro;
- Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis, ECLAC, Mr. Raul Garcia-Buchaca (via VTC);
- Executive Secretary UNECE and USG Ms. Olga Algayerova (Coordinator of the five Regional Commissions).
- 10:55 Round of interventions from the floor.
- 12:00 Responses from the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions.
- 12:50 Concluding remarks by the Moderator.
- 12:55 Closing remarks by the Chair.

Against the background outlined above, the following questions are suggested to frame the Dialogue:

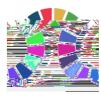
What is your perspective on how the multiple crises are unfolding in your respective regions (including impacts of the pandemic, dimate change, conflict, as well as the food, energy and finance crises)? ?

What steps/ actions are the Regional Commissions taking to support regional cooperation among member States and address the impacts of the cumulative crises? What opportunities are there for joint advocacy? What actions are needed from the international community?

As we initiate preparations for the 2023 SDG Summit and discuss how to operationalize the Common Agenda as an agenda for action to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, how can action at the regional level contribute to reinvigorating the multilateral response? What opportunities exist for rethinking measurements of development needs and for renewed forms of cooperation between developed and developing countries?

How are the Regional Commissions working with the UN system at the regional and country level in responding to the multiple crises?





An overview of recent work and publications of the Regional Commissions on the theme of the Dialogue will be shared in advance.